Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Canceled) ~~A process for purifying VWF comprising the step of carrying out at least one hydroxylapatite flow chromatography.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ **A** process for purifying **wild-type von Willebrand factor** (VWF) **from a plasma fraction**~~,~~ comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

   (i) **carrying out flow chromatography with hydroxyapatite by** contacting a ~~composition~~ **plasma fraction** containing **wild-type** VWF and one or more contaminating proteins with a hydroxylapatite matrix **under conditions that permit** ~~so as to bind~~ at least one contaminating protein to **bind to** the hydroxylapatite matrix~~,~~ while VWF is substantially not bound to the hydroxylapatite matrix, and ~~optionally~~

   (ii) **collecting a flow through fraction containing** ~~separating~~ unbound VWF ~~from the hydroxylapatite matrix~~.

3. (Canceled) ~~The process according to claim 2, characterized in that VWF is found in the flow and at least one contaminating protein is bound to hydroxylapatite.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 2, characterized in that the contaminating protein is fibronectin or fibrinogen.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, characterized in that **the** ~~hydroxylapatite~~ **flow** chromatography **with hydroxyapatite** is carried out at a pH of 6.5 to 8.0~~, preferably 6.8 to 7.5~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ 2, characterized in that a solution containing sodium phosphate and/or potassium phosphate is used as ~~the~~ a running buffer **in the flow chromatography with hydroxyapatite**.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ 2, **further comprising the step of re-chromatographing the flow through fraction containing unbound VWF with hybroxyapatite under binding conditions such** ~~characterized in~~ that VWF is **first** bound to a hydroxylapatite matrix ~~in a separate chromatographic step~~ and then **subsequently** eluted.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7, characterized in that in the ~~separate chromatographic~~ **re-chromatography** step comprises:
   (a) binding VWF to the hydroxylapatite matrix,
   (b) washing out impurities, and
   (c) eluting the VWF containing fraction of interest at a higher salt concentration.

9. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that in step (a) a composition containing VWF, one or more contaminating proteins and 1 to 200 mM sodium and/or potassium phosphate, is contacted with the hydroxylapatite matrix.

10. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that in step (b) the hydroxylapatite matrix is washed with a buffer containing 100 to 300 mM sodium and/or potassium phosphate.

11. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 8, characterized in that in step (c) the VWF containing fraction of interest is eluted with a buffer containing 200 to 500 mM sodium and/or potassium phosphate.

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 7, characterized in that the ~~hydroxylapatite~~ re-chromatography step is carried out at a pH of 5 to 7.5.

13. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that flow chromatography with hydroxylapatite is initially carried out, such that VWF does not bind to the hydroxylapatite matrix, then the~~ **further comprising the step of re-chromatographing the** flow **through fraction containing unbound VWF** ~~fraction is re-chromatographed~~ under binding conditions and **eluting** the VWF fraction ~~is eluted~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that a~~ **wherein the plasma fraction has been** previously purified ~~plasma fraction is used as a starting material~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that a~~ **wherein the plasma fraction comprises a** separately purified cryoprecipitate solution ~~is used as a starting material~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that a~~ **wherein the plasma fraction comprises a** cryoprecipitate solution precipitated with aluminum hydroxide ~~is used as a starting material~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that a~~ **wherein the plasma fraction comprises a** chromatographically pre-purified cryoprecipitate solution precipitated with aluminum hydroxide ~~is used as a starting material~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ **2**, further comprising the step of carrying out a pH precipitation prior to **the flow chromatography with** hydroxylapatite **of step (i)** ~~chromatography~~ to separate fibronectin.

19. (Canceled) ~~The process according to claim 1, characterized in that a VWF containing protein solution from cell culture supernatants is used as a starting material.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ 2, characterized in that the hydroxylapatite matrix used contains fluoride ions.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled) ~~A VWF containing composition obtained by the process according to claim 1.~~

23. (Canceled) ~~A composition according to claim 22 comprising a purified VWF preparation.~~

24. (New) The process according to claim 5, characterized in that the flow chromatography with hydroxylapatite is carried out at a pH of 6.8 to 7.5.